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CHARTER,  
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
OF THE  
NEW YORK STATE  
COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

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# CHARTER.



## CHAPTER 241.

*An Act to Incorporate the New York State Colonization Society. Passed April 10, 1855.*

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

§ 1. TITLE. Anson G. Phelps, Gardiner Spring, D.D., James Boormann, W. P. Van Rensselaer, Herman Camp, Archibald McIntyre, S. H. Tyng, D.D., Washington Hunt, T. Frelinghuysen, J. S. Spencer, D.D., G. P. Disosway, J. W. Beekman, D. A. Bookee, Hamilton Fish, Hugh Maxwell, D. S. Gregory, L. B. Ward, John B. Pinney, J. B. Collins, Math. Hyden, Francis Hall, Wm McMurray, Sam'l A. Foot, Hiram Ketcham, and all persons who now are, or hereafter declare to be, and are constituted a body politic and corporate, by the name of the "New York State Colonization Society."

§ 2. BUSINESS AND OBJECT.—The particular business and objects of the said Society are to provide the ways and means and to manage, appropriate and apply the same to colonize, with their own consent, people of color of the United States on the coast of Africa and through them to civilize the African tribes and also generally to improve the condition of the colored population of our country by appointing and sustaining agencies; diffusing information; collecting, receiving, appropriating or investing funds for purposes of education in its various branches among people of color of our country heretofore colonized or hereafter to be colonized in Africa; and by other means conducive to the objects of African colonization.

§ 3. GENERAL POWERS.—The corporation hereby created shall possess all the general powers, rights and privileges, and be subject to the restrictions contained and prescribed in the third title of the eighteenth chapter of the first part of the revised statutes.

§ 4 CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS —The Constitution and By-Laws at the date of the passage of this act of the association designated and known as the “New York State Colonization Society” shall be and continue in force as a Constitution and

By-Laws for the government and direction of the corporation hereby created; and the officers of such association, at the date of the passage of this act, shall be and continue officers of the corporation hereby created until removed or others are duly elected in their places: and all the estate and property which such association may have heretofore received or acquired by gift, bequest, devise, or otherwise, and at the time of the passage of this act held by them for the objects specified in the second section of this act, is hereby vested in the corporation hereby created, and said corporation may hold and may convey and dispose of the same as their estate and property legally acquired under this act.

§ 5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MANAGEMENT OF PROPERTY.—The corporation hereby created shall have power to alter its Constitution and By-Laws, or at any time to make and adopt a new Constitution and new By-Laws not inconsistent with laws of this State, so as fully to regulate and control the admission of members, the election of its officers, their number, duties, and tenure of office, the safe-keeping and management of its property, in what manner and by whom its corporate powers shall be exercised, and the administration of all other busi-

ness and affairs for the due and complete exercise of all such corporate powers.

§ 6. MONEY AFFAIRS.—The management and disposal of the funds, property and estate of the said corporation and the entire regulation and control of its corporative business and affairs shall be vested in the officers hereby appointed or hereafter to be elected pursuant to its Constitution and By-Laws, at the times and in the manner therein provided.

§ 7. ELECTIONS.—In case it shall at any time happen that an election of officers shall not be made on the day designated therefor, the corporation hereby created shall not for that cause be dissolved, but it shall and may be lawful on any other day to hold an election for such officers in such manner as may be directed by the by-laws of such corporation.

§ 8. REAL ESTATE.—The corporation hereby created by its corporate name shall; in law, be capable of taking, receiving, purchasing and holding real estate for the purposes of their corporation, and for no other purpose, to an amount not exceeding the sum of fifty thousand dollars in value; and personal estate for like purposes to an amount not exceeding one hundred and fifty thousand dollars in value, but the clear annual income of such real

and personal estate shall not exceed the sum of thirty thousand dollars.

§ 9. LIMIT OF PROPERTY.—The corporation hereby created shall be capable of taking, holding, or receiving any property, real or personal, by virtue of any devise or bequest contained in any last will and testament of any person whatsoever, the clear annual income of such devise or bequest shall not exceed the sum of twenty thousand dollars.

§ 10. The legislature may at any time alter, modify or repeal this act.

§ 11. This act will take effect immediately.

# CONSTITUTION.



ART. 1.—This Society shall be called the NEW YORK STATE COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

ART. 2 —The object of this Society shall be to colonize, with their own consent, people of color of the United States, on the coast of Africa, and through them to civilize and Christianize the African tribes; and also generally to improve the condition of the colored population of our country.

ART. 3.—This Society shall consist of the following persons:

REV. J. D. WELLS,	ROBERT PORTERFIELD,
REV. J. C. LOWRIE,	MORRIS J. FRANKLIN, M.D.
REV. SAM'L D. ALEXANDER,	GEO. PUTNAM SMITH,
CHAS. H. NICHOLS, M. D.,	H. B. DYER,
REV. GEO. W. SAMSON,	HENRY P. DOREMUS,
THOS. DAVENPORT,	D. R. JAMES,
HENRY M. SCHIEFFELIN,	GEO. E. DODGE,
ISAAC T. SMITH,	WM. H. SCHIEFFELIN,
REV. ROBT. S. MCARTHUR,	ERNEST H. CROSBY,
ASHBEL GREEN,	

who are the officers and managers, and for some

time past have been the only members of the Society, and also three other persons to be chosen by them so as to make the number twenty two.

ART. 4.—The Officers of the Society shall be a President, and two Vice Presidents, who shall be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting which shall take place at the Society's room on the first Monday of May, in each year; the polls being kept open from 3 P. M. to 4 P. M. Also a Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, and Recording Secretary. All officers shall hold over until their successors are elected.

ART. 5.—The officers and remaining members shall constitute the Board of Managers.

ART. 6.—The Board of Managers shall have power to fill all vacancies occurring in their body at any regularly convened meeting, and to declare the place of any member vacant who shall be absent from all the meetings of any year without satisfactory reasons.

ART. 7.—To be regularly convened due notice of the meeting shall be sent to each member, and seven members shall constitute a quorum. Meetings shall

be called by the Recording Secretary when requested to do so by any four members in writing.

ART. 8—The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society. The Treasurer shall keep the accounts of the Society, and take care of its funds and hold them subject to the direction of the Board of Managers. The Recording Secretary shall have charge of the records of the Society, and shall keep the minutes of meetings of the Society and Board of Managers. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct all correspondence, and act as the Society's general agent, subject in the discharge of his duties to the direction of the Board of Managers. The Secretaries and the Treasurer shall be appointed by and hold their offices during the pleasure of the Board, but shall not be removed from office without the vote of at least ten. In the absence of the President, the senior Vice President shall preside at meetings of the Society and Board of Managers. If neither the President or the Vice President be present, a manager shall be appointed temporary chairman. The Board of Managers shall have the direction of the affairs of the Society, make by-laws for its government, and have the care, management and disbursement of its funds.



ART. 9.—This Constitution may be amended at any annual meeting of the Society by a vote of a majority of the members present. The member proposing an amendment, shall submit the same to the Corresponding Secretary, who shall furnish to each member of the Society a copy thereof, at least one month previous to such meeting.

## BY - LAWS.

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1. Regular meetings of the Board of Managers shall be held at the Society's room or such other place in the city of New York as the Board may appoint, on the first Tuesday of January, May and October, in each year.

2. There shall be an Executive Committee, consisting of the President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary and four other Managers, who shall be chosen annually by the Board at its first meeting to do the ordinary business of the Board, and report by reading their own minutes at the regular meetings of the Board; a majority of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

3. The Executive Committee may choose from its members a Finance Committee of three, who shall have general charge of the Finances of the Society.

4. The presiding officer at any meeting of the Board shall appoint all special committees, unless

it be otherwise ordered by the resolution creating them

5. The Recording Secretary shall preserve in a book, provided for that purpose, an accurate copy of the Charter and Constitution of the Society and of these By-Laws, and also record therein all amendments of said Constitution and By-Laws which may be made from time to time. He shall notify the Chairmen of committees of the names of the members of their committee and of the object of their appointment. He shall notify officers and managers of their election, and perform the general duties of a secretary.

6. The Treasurer shall keep a regular account of all moneys by him received or disbursed, and shall make no payment on account of the Society, except by general or special resolution of the Finance Committee. His accounts shall be examined by an Auditing Committee within one month preceding the annual meeting. He shall render an account current at every meeting.

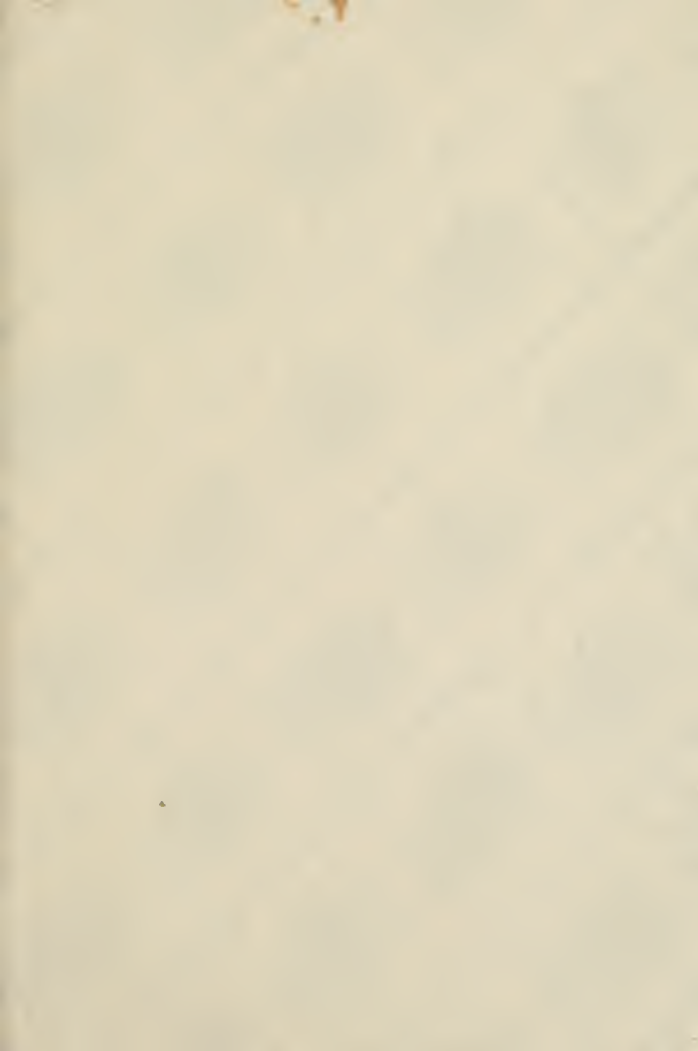
7. The order of business at the meetings of the Board shall be as follows: (1st.) Reading the minutes of the last meeting; (2d.) Report of the Ex. Committee; (3d.) Report of Corresponding Secre-

tary; (4th.) Report of Treasurer; (5th.) Report of special committees in the order in which they stand; (6th.) Miscellaneous business.

8. These By-Laws may be amended or altered at any regular meeting of the Board, upon proposition, in writing, stating the proposed amendment or alteration made by any member at the regular meeting preceding that at which the proposition is acted upon.













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